

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 /028 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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FOR OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, WZ

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS AND
CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND

REF: 76 STATE A-5760

AFTER ITS INQUIRIES TO RELEVANT PARA-STATAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND GOS MINISTRIES, EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE
TO DETERMINE IF GOS HAS ANY OFFICIAL POSITION CONCERNING
COSTS OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN
KIND. FACTORS LEADING TO THIS CONCLUSION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. UP TO PRESENT TIME VARIOUS INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN
SWAZILAND HAVE NOT BEEN SO COMPLEX AS TO REQUIRE AN
ESPECIALLY SOPHISTICATED LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGICAL
EXPERTISE. MOST OF THE PROJECTS INVOLVE TECHNOLOGY OR
MATERIAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT ARE READILY AVAILABLE ON THE
WORLD MARKET. THUS THERE IS NO PARTICULAR NEED TO ASSESS
OR MEASURE THE WORTH OF THE TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED. IT IS
JUST ASSUMED THAT THE TECHNOLOGY OR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE
AVAILABLE AND CAN BE APPLIED TO SWAZILAND.

2. THE GOS OFFICIALS INVOLVED ARE, FOR THE MOST
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PART, RELATIVELY UNSOPHISTICATED NON-TECHNOCRATS
AND SIMPLY DO NOT THINK IN THESE TERMS. IT IS MUCH
MORE COMMON FOR GOS OFFICIALS TO BE INTERESTED IN
CAPITAL INVOLVED, NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED, PROFIT
RATIOS, RATHER THAN THE NATURE OF THE TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE.

3. AN EXCEPTION TO PARAS 1 AND 2 ARE INTERNATIONAL DONOR PROJECTS WHICH ARE AIMED AT RURAL DEVELOPMENT. IN THESE INSTANCES GOS IS VERY CAREFUL NOT TO BRING IN METHODS OR TECHNOLOGY THAT CANNOT BE HANDLED EASILY BY RURAL POPULATION.

4. AS FAR AS POST ABLE TO DETERMINE, GOS IN EXAMINING CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND OF FOREIGN INVESTORS IS NOT ACUTELY CRITICAL OF EXACT TYPE OF CONTRIBUTION. ATTITUDE SEEMS TO BE THAT FOREIGN FIRMS KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND WILL BRING IN WHATEVER EQUIPMENT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE JOB. MAJOR EXCEPTION TO THIS SEEMS TO BE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, WHERE GOS HAS ACTIVELY ATTEMPTED TO CREATE AN EXCELLENT NETWORK. BASIC CRITERION IN EVALUATING CONTRUBUTIONS IN KIND IS COST TO INVESTOR AND/OR TO GOS.

5. MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ARE STAFFED HEAVILY BY EXPATRIATES AND CAN DO COMPETENT, REALISTIC ASSESSMENTS OF VALUE OF PLANTS/MACHINERY/TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS. WACHOB

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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